

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This action is in response to the Applicants' amendment filed under an RCE on November 23, 2004. Claims 19, 21, 31, 42-44, and 48 have been canceled. Claims 1-18, 20, 22-30, 32-41, and 45-47 are pending and will be considered for examination.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael King on December 10, 2004.

Enter new claim 30 as follows:

30. The method of Claim 20, further comprising the step of employing the player program to transmit information over a network to an e-commerce agency to implement purchase of a softgood, using a secure communication protocol.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-18, 20, 22-30, 32-41, and 45-47 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Statement of allowance is with reference to independent claims 1, 8, 20, 32, 35, 45, and 47. All other claims are dependencies of these independent claims.

The present invention is directed to a system and method for the purchase of softgoods (i.e. digital products such as music files) over the Internet. The independent claims 1, 8, 20, 32, 35, 45, and 47 recite the patentable distinct feature that the registration value used to enable playback of the softgood in full mode is transmitted in its entirety and independently of the softgood.

Discussion of most relevant prior art:

The following references have been identified as most relevant prior art to the claimed invention.

(i) US Patent 6,385,596 to Wiser et al, discloses a system for secure online music distribution. Wiser substantially discloses the claimed invention; however, Wiser fails to teach or suggest that the registration value is transmitted in its entirety and independently of the softgood.

(ii) No Author, "DPAS: Revolutionary Online Software Registration Product, CyberReg, Offers Higher Return Rates and Increased Revenues" PR Newswire, June 4, 1997. Retrieved from Dialog File: 16, Acc#: 05070634. This article discusses a

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website used for product registration. Among other things, it fails to teach or suggest that the registration value is transmitted in its entirety and independently of the softgood.

(iii) AU 9954964A to Luu discloses a copyright protection method for computer software using a registration number. Among other things, Luu fails to teach or suggest that the registration value is transmitted in its entirety and independently of the softgood.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naeem Haq whose telephone number is (703)-305-3930. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn W. Coggins can be reached on (703)-308-1344. The fax phone


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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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